

**Assembly Joint Resolution**

**No. 33**

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**Introduced by Assembly Member Holden**

January 30, 2014

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Assembly Joint Resolution No. 33—Relative to veterans.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL’S DIGEST

AJR 33, as introduced, Holden. Military and veterans.

This measure would urge the United States Department of Defense to include the names of the 74 fallen sailors of the Destroyer U.S.S. Frank E. Evans (DD 754) on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial.

Fiscal committee: no.

- 1 WHEREAS, On March 29, 1969, the officers and men of the  
2 U.S.S. Frank E. Evans (DD 754) departed Long Beach, California  
3 for the western Pacific Ocean to carry out the operational orders  
4 of their Commander in Chief during a time of war with North  
5 Vietnam; and  
6 WHEREAS, On June 3, 1969, the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans (DD  
7 754), while on an allied naval exercise during the Vietnam War,  
8 collided with the Australian aircraft carrier, HMAS Melbourne (R  
9 21) in the South China Sea, near the coast of Vietnam; and  
10 WHEREAS, The collision severed the ship into two sections,  
11 with the forward section sinking in less than three minutes, taking  
12 the lives of 74 American sailors; and  
13 WHEREAS, Members of the United States Armed Forces who  
14 died during the Vietnam War have been memorialized by placing  
15 their names on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial in Washington  
16 D.C., as long as they died within the combat zone; and

1 WHEREAS, The United States Department of Defense maintains  
2 that the men who died as a result of the U.S.S. Frank E. Evans  
3 (DD 754) do not meet the criteria for inclusion on the Vietnam  
4 Veterans Memorial because the accident occurred outside the  
5 combat zone, and continues to deny the placement of the names  
6 of the lost 74 sailors on the memorial; and

7 WHEREAS, The Vietnam War combat zone boundaries, which  
8 were ill defined and were changed from time to time, should not  
9 be applied to exclude the names of the lost sailors from the Vietnam  
10 Veterans Memorial; and

11 WHEREAS, Other members of the United States Armed Forces  
12 who died outside the designated Vietnam War combat zone have  
13 had their names placed on the Vietnam Veterans Memorial; now,  
14 therefore be it

15 *Resolved by the Assembly and the Senate of the State of*  
16 *California, jointly,* That the names of the 74 sailors from the U.S.S.  
17 Frank E. Evans (DD 754) should be included on the Vietnam  
18 Veterans Memorial, and California fully supports an immediate  
19 favorable decision by the United States Department of Defense to  
20 make an exception to its criteria and include those names on the  
21 Vietnam Veterans Memorial; and be it further

22 *Resolved,* That the Chief Clerk of the Assembly transmit copies  
23 of this resolution to the President and Vice President of the United  
24 States, to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, to the  
25 Majority Leader of the Senate, and to each Senator and  
26 Representative from California in the Congress of the United  
27 States.